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From Page:
2
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Great Places 108

In the coming weeks, you will be hearing about *Great Places*. *Great Places* is a Vilsack-Pederson Administration initiative designed to promote bold thought, innovation and entrepreneurship to cultivate unique and authentic qualities that make places in Iowa so special. The initiative turns the state into a new kind of partner with Iowans—demystifying government, combining resources for impact and delivering results.

A letter has been sent to the Great Places Citizen Advisory Board. That contact will help us to identify ways to package together state agency resources to help our community and area to become a “Great Place”.

There are seven dimensions to

the *Great Places* and we will be assessing our level of readiness in each area. Those dimensions are, A Unique Sense of Place, Engaging Experiences, A Rich Social Fabric, A Vital Economy, A Pleasing Environment, A Strong Foundation, and A Creative Culture.

After September 1, three *Great Places* will be chosen from all entries. But each community or area that sent in a letter by July 1 will work with a team of coaches through July and August to identify strengths, gaps, potential resources and next steps needed to make them a great place.

You will be hearing more about *Great Places* in meetings and in the paper and many of you will be asked for your input.

Freda Dammann